

## ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides systems and methods for converting between an XML data structure and a relational database. It enables the storage of an XML document in such a way that: the relational data model would not have to change as the document model changes; the structure of the tables is set up in such a way that the entire document can be retrieved with a single query in a linear (i.e. non-recursive) fashion; and, information about specific individual components within an XML document can be retrieved via simple queries that do not require hierarchy traversals or intensive, post-query data parsing.